

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 484
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Walter Paul Swain of the
Gladeville community in Wilson County.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize special
citizens of our state who contribute significantly to the public good; and

WHEREAS, Walter Paul Swain, a beloved, lifelong resident of the Gladeville community,
in Wilson County, is clearly one such distinguished citizen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Swain was born January 12, 1916, the son of Henry Edgar and Ella
Francis Estes Swain. His dad's favorite saying was "Dadgummit"; and

WHEREAS, he had four sisters, Sallie Page Swain Sanders, Jenny Ruby Swain Harris,
Ruth Elizabeth Swain Towns and Frances Irene Swain Bell (who is still living) and two brothers,
Willie Robert Swain and James Sidney Swain; and

WHEREAS, he attended Gladeville Elementary School and Gladeville Junior High
School from 1924-1934 and Lebanon High School in 1935; and

WHEREAS, after completing the tenth grade, Walter decided to quit school. His father
did not complain, showed him a team of mules out in the front yard, and told him that was fine,
he had a lot of hard work that Walter would now have time to do. Walter decided school was not
as bad as he had thought and graduated from Walter Hill High School in 1936; and

WHEREAS, borrowing money from his brothers and sisters, without telling his father, he
attended Cumberland University 1936-1938, becoming the first member of his

family to attend college. Anxious to learn, he hitchhiked to school, where he excelled at baseball; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded student, Mr. Swain was the first graduate of the Middle Tennessee State Teacher's College in 1939; and

WHEREAS, seeing the tremendous need for quality educators and administrators, he served ably as Principal and teacher at Tucker's Cross Roads School 1939-1940; and

WHEREAS, in his first teaching job, his beginning salary was \$55 a month or \$440 a school year; and

WHEREAS, from 1940 to 1950, Mr. Swain served with distinction as Principal and teacher at Mt. Juliet School, where he successfully taught several very informative business courses, including typing, and also bought and drove a school bus; and

WHEREAS, after a year as an employee of Avco, he resumed his distinguished career as a teacher at Isaac Litton High School in 1951, expertly teaching math courses, including his very popular Algebra I course; and

WHEREAS, from 1965 to 1977, Mr. Swain worked with extraordinary diligence and dedication as a truant officer for the Metropolitan Nashville School System; and

WHEREAS, he is a lifelong, very devout and active member of the Gladeville United Methodist Church, which is under the exceptional leadership of their fine minister Bill Meness; and

WHEREAS, December 20, 1940, was a momentous day in the life of Walter Paul Swain and the history of the Swain family, because it was on that fateful day, 55 years ago, that he married his sweetheart Mary "The Madam" Wilson Robinson; and

WHEREAS, that blessed union produced two very successful sons, Paul Wilson Swain, who is an employee of Metro Nashville Airport Authority and is married to Carolyn Hunter Swain, and James Edward Swain, who has carried on his father's exemplary legacy, currently serving as Director of Secondary Education for the state Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the state Department of Education in 1985, James' outstanding career included admirable service as Principal and teacher at Gladeville Elementary School 1970-1974 and 1984-1985, as Admissions Counselor and Financial Aid Director at Cumberland University 1974-1980, with the United States Army, as Assistant Principal at Lebanon High School 1980-1982 and as Principal at South Side Elementary School 1982-1984; and

WHEREAS, the Swain family has been an active part of the Gladeville community, respected for their honesty, their industry and their willingness to always help a neighbor in need, since 1812. Walter lives across the street from where he was born; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize and commend this fine representative of the best traditions of the Volunteer State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend one of Tennessee's treasures, Walter Paul Swain, for his service as an educator and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deepest appreciation to him on behalf of the many persons who have benefited significantly from his help.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.

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